



# La Voz

Newsletter of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic  
Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees

March 2005

**Inside this  
issue:**

**Loss of  
Founding  
Member of  
NOPHNRCSE**

**Call for  
Posters,  
Technical  
Papers**

**Conference  
Information**

**Minority  
Scholarships**

## President's Message

*By Bertha Venegas  
NOPHNRCSE President*

Every day we are reminded of how valuable life is. Last month I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ray Margo. Ray was one of the founding members of NOPHNRCSE and interim-president during the formation of the organization. He retired and went back to the great state of Texas after serving as state conservationist in New Mexico. We lost a great leader, mentor and member of the NOPHNRCSE family.

The planning of the National Training Conference is well underway with plenty of information filling our email boxes. Don't forget to check our website for the latest updates and remember to request through channels to be put on the list to attend the conference. Mario Morales, conference planning chair, will continue to take volunteers to help with the conference.

Our scholarship application is available and I ask for your assistance in distributing it to local schools. This year we have set aside some funds to bring in students



*Bertha Venegas,  
NOPHNRCSE  
President*

to our national conference and introduce them to our agency (NRCS). Russell Castro and Rick Rodriguez are working with this outreach program. Let's help them distribute this information as well. Contact your regional representative if you need any of this information.

I have been flooded with messages from members offering to help in one capacity or another. We have positions for everyone, just keep them coming. I take pride in knowing that we have extraordinary members who make this organization move!

I look forward to seeing everyone in Lafayette, LA.

The National  
Council, 2004-2005

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Loss of  
NOPHNRCSE  
Family Member

## Founding Member of NOPHNRCSE Passes Away

RAY T. MARGO, JR.  
*June 4, 1934 - Jan. 14, 2005*

Ray T. Margo Jr., 70, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Jan. 14, at his home, Rancho Margo, La Coma in Santa Elena, Texas. Ray was a dedicated and faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Raymundo and Cecilia Margo and his brother Dr. Rodolfo E. Margo.

His is survived by his loving wife, Minerva Garcia Margo and their daughters Sheila Sanchez, husband Clarence; Mari Courtney, husband John; Yvonne Anderson, husband Jim; Carol Stanners, husband Steve; and JoAnn Bryan, husband Scott. He is also survived by his grandchildren Jesse and Cecilia Sanchez, Kailean and Keaton Courtney, Landon Ray and Connor Anderson, Kyle and Margo Stanners. Ray is also survived by his sisters Angiolina Ramirez, Ambarina Barrera and Dilia Perez and his brother Dr. Roberto S. Margo, DVM.

Ray is a distinguished veteran and served in the U.S. Army, including a 16-month tour in Korea. He devoted his entire professional career as a public servant to natural resource conservation. Ray began his career with Soil Conservation Service in Benavides, Texas, as a soil conservationist. After working in several locations in south Texas, he



transferred to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ray retired as the state conservationist in New Mexico in 1993.

Ray served as president of the Albuquerque-Santa Fe Federal Executive Board and as chairman of the Albuquerque Combined Federal Campaign for the United Way in 1988-1989. He served as a member of the National Committee of Boy Scouts of America by serving on the Philmont Scout Ranch Committee from 1980 to 1993. Margo was a founder and the first interim president of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees in 1993. He was a member of the project advisory team for the Hispanic Leadership Program in Agriculture and Natural Resources for Texas A & M University, University of Texas at San Antonio and Forest Service. He was also an Erosion and Sediment Control Certified Professional Consultant. Ray

was a member of the Society for Range Management, Assn. of Retires SCS Employees, Beefmaster Breeders United, and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

After retirement, Ray and his wife Minerva moved to College Station, Texas, for several years before returning to their roots in the Rio Grande Valley. They established Rancho Margo, La Coma in Northeast Starr County and raise registered Beefmaster cattle as they continue to pursue their passion for wildlife preservation. They are both heavily involved with volunteer work. Ray was vice-chairman of the Texas-Mexico Border Coalition (community based organization); secretary of the Texas Coalition of Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI); member of the Center for Grazing lands and Ranch Management Planning Committee (Texas A&M University); served on the Board of Directors for Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc.; volunteered with San Isidro Community Food Pantry and Earth Team Volunteer for the Starr County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The funeral mass was held on Jan. 18 at at the Immaculate Conception Church in Rio Grande City. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to Immaculate Conception Church or School in Rio Grande City.



## Call for Posters and Technical Papers

Action Required by: April 8, 2005

The Natural Resources Committee is calling for posters and technical papers for our next training conference. If you have an innovative project or unique ways to outreach minority customers, please consider presenting a poster or a technical paper.

The selected presenters may attend at government time and expense, with approval from their supervisor. If you are interested, please review the following details of the submission process and take part in the 2005 NOPHNCSE annual training conference!

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### Call for Posters and Technical Papers

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

From now until March 20, proposals may be submitted by email to [juan.hernandez@wi.usda.gov](mailto:juan.hernandez@wi.usda.gov); by faxing the proposal to (920) 424-0329.

From March 20 to April 8 proposals may be submitted by email to [juan.hernandez@ar.usda.gov](mailto:juan.hernandez@ar.usda.gov); by faxing the proposal to (501) 676-7500, attention: Juan Hernandez; or by mailing the proposal to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1300 N Center Street, Lonoke, AR 72086-2011, attention: Juan Hernandez.

Information required for paper and/or poster presentations include:

- Title of presentation
- Presenter's name, affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- Contact person (if different from presenter) phone and email
- Abstract of 200 words or less

Your presentation can be either oral or poster:

#### 1. Oral Concurrent Presentations

Oral concurrent sessions will take place during this training conference. Oral sessions are opportunities to share the results of an outreach effort, conservation research projects, and/or lessons learned through professional experience with conservation projects, programs, and technologies. Oral concurrent sessions are 60 minutes in length. Each presenter will be given 30 minutes — 20 to 25 minutes to make the presentation and 5 to 10 minutes for questions and answers.

*Please Note:* The natural resources committee will carefully review all submissions. To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for presentation as posters.

#### 2. Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display from Monday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon. Presenters will be required to be at their boards at specific times (to be determined) during which, presenters will answer questions and explain their experiences and results to conference attendees. A poster presentation entails affixing printed materials (typed information, photos, graphs, etc.) to a poster board. Audiovisual equipment might be used but it will not be permitted to be the sole content of the poster. Freestanding displays will be considered for poster presentation on a case by case basis.

Timeline:

**April 8, 2005 - Deadline for submittal of papers and abstracts.**

April 15, 2004 - Final decision made on acceptance of abstracts and letters of notification to be sent out.

For questions, contact Juan C Hernández, at (920) 420-1380, until March 20. After March 20, please call Juan at (501) 676-5116, extension 3, or via email, [juan.hernandez@ar.usda.gov](mailto:juan.hernandez@ar.usda.gov).



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### Look for NOPHNCSE Conference Bulletin

## National Bulletin for NOPHNCSE Conference Signed

The bulletin requesting names to be submitted to attend the NOPHNCSE Training Conference in Lafayette, Louisiana, June 27-30, has been sent out under Mr. Dwight Holman's signature. Action has been requested by March 28, 2005.

## Conference Moderators Needed

*By Juan Pena*

We are still looking for volunteers who would like to serve as moderators during our training conference. Only members from Texas and California have volunteered to serve as moderators so far. This is excellent opportunity to practice your public speaking skills among friends and colleagues.

You can volunteer to moderate during the general sessions or during the breakout sessions. We would like to have volunteers from all of our regions so that each region can actively participate in our training conference.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can reach me at [juan.pena@tx.usda.gov](mailto:juan.pena@tx.usda.gov). If you prefer by phone, you can call me at 956-689-2542, Ext. 3.

## Request for Student Applications

The Student Participation Committee is looking for students interested in possible employment with NRCS to attend this year's annual training conference. The committee is asking for the assistance of all members to find the best qualified students majoring in the various disciplines associated with employment with NRCS. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with both management and field office personnel. Funds will be available to sponsor approximately 10 students.

The committee has developed a flyer for distribution by membership to the colleges and universities in the US, Puerto Rico, and all regions of the country. The flyer is posted on the NOPHNCSE website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/hispanic/documents/2005students.pdf> and was also sent to regional representatives. Please review the flyer and distribute as deemed necessary.

Applications are to be received no later than April 1, 2005.

Should you have any questions, please call Rick Rodriguez at (254)742-9894, or Russell Castro at (254)742-9982.

## Taking Extra Time to Take in New Orleans

*By Paul McQuade, district conservationist, Morristown, Tennessee*

For those who want to take some extra time to visit New Orleans, I have been asked to offer a few suggestions.

Since I grew up in New Orleans, I will not pretend to be objective. I know New Orleans is just about the most culturally rich, beautiful, fun place in the United States, if not in the world. If all you have heard of is Bourbon Street, you have missed out. There is so much more history, art, music, antiques, shopping, and did I mention food?

Since there is so much to do, I'll offer a few of my favorite things and reference some resources. Also, there are many family activities. A good website: [www.neworleansonline.com](http://www.neworleansonline.com) to help you plan.

First word of caution. It's hot and humid in mid-summer. So dress appropriately and plan your day so you can take a break in the mid-day heat.

Visit the French Quarter in the early morning. Go to Louisiana State Museum, with its great exhibits on Spanish, French, Indian, and Creole history. Next-door is the St. Louis Cathedral. After visiting churches in Central and South America, I see it in a new context. An old family friend said, "We're not southerners, we're

*(continued on page 5)*



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## Nominations Committee Update

*Taking in New Orleans continued from page 4*

from the northern Caribbean". After that, go have coffee and begets (donuts) at the Café Dumond. Then walk down Royal Street for antiques, art, and jewelry. Tour a cemetery and visit the grave of Marie Lavoue, the voodoo queen.

Visit one of New Orleans' parks and walk among the live oaks dripping with Spanish moss. Audubon Park has a zoo and is across the street from Tulane and Loyola. In the back, you can visit the Mississippi River. City Park has great lakes, gardens, and the New Orleans Museum of Art. You can ride street-cars to both parks.

Many of my inland friends have been greatly impressed with the lakefront. Go for a picnic or eat at one of the great restaurants on the west end of the Lakeshore. I like Brunnings.

There are several neighborhoods with great coffee shops, bookstores, antiques, galleries, clothing boutiques, and restaurants on Magazine Street.

## Donate Items for Auction

*By Adolfo Diaz, Scholarship Committee*

I would like to encourage the membership to start thinking about donations of items for the auction, the proceeds from this event support our scholarship program build our scholarship endowment fund.

Take a drive down Esplanade. This is the old Creole area of town. The best architecture in the new world, as far as I am concerned. For music, there's always more than you can take in. My favorite place is Tipitinas, with a dance every Sunday at 5:00p.m.

Café Brazil usually has Latin music and is in the French Quarter. A weekly paper called Gambit Weekly can give you details: [www.gambitweekly.com](http://www.gambitweekly.com).

It's hard to write about eating in New Orleans in a short article. There are hundreds of books on New Orleans food. To find a good restaurant, ask locals or check the Gambit Restaurant directory. Eat shrimp, oysters, crabs, crawfish, jambalaya, gumbo etoufee, roast beef po'boy, Tex mex, Thai, Italian, French, Creole, or Soul Food.

One last suggestion, visit the Aquarium, the D-Day Museum, and the Chalmet National Battlefield site of the Historic Battle of New Orleans.

This year's auctioneer will be Mike Langlinais of Abbeville, LA. I want to thank Stacy Crevello, coordinator for the Arcadia RC&D, for securing Mike's services.

Call me with questions at 608-662-4422 x216. Please consider bringing something unique from your area.

## Membership Awards Nominations

The Awards Committee has posted the nominations form and guidelines on the NOPHNRCSE website in the conference Information link. The Awards Team is soliciting your nominations for awards recipients. There are employees in our agency and organization who contribute far beyond the call of duty. This is an opportunity to voice your appreciation and nominate them for an award. Send your nomination to Tony Resendez by April 30, 2005.

Also, a list of past recipients has been posted. If you were a past recipient of an award and your name is not on the list, please contact Tony Resendez at 325-597-4666.

## Nominations

*By Luis Gamboa,  
Nominations Committee  
Co-Chairperson*

Within the next couple of weeks, the Nominations committee will send ballots for the membership to complete and return.

The following election timeline will be followed:  
March 25, 2005 - Send out ballots to members  
April 8, 2005 - Due date to return ballots  
April 29, 2005 - \*Send out voting ballot for runoff  
May 13, 2005 - \*Due date to return runoff ballots

*Note: all due dates are postmarked due dates; and \* denotes as optional - if needed due to a tie.*





## Conference Registration Form Now Available

*By Mario A. Morales,  
Conference Planning  
Chairperson*

The 2005 NOPHNCSE Training Conference registration form is now available on our website. Feel free to download and submit it once your "Request for Travel Authorization" has been approved. Also, please register for the professional development sessions and one of four conservation tours. You need to select a total of eight professional development training sessions, one for each of the time slots available.

When registering for the conference, please indicate your first, second and third preferences for each of the professional development training sessions. Please do the same for the conservation tours. One more thing, please list any special requests/needs on your conference registration Form (ex. special dietary needs, special access needs, etc.). Note: the restaurant at the Lafayette Hilton Towers has a good vegan menu.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation to all of the members of the training conference planning team. Planning and implementing this conference would not be possible without all of your assistance. I look forward to seeing everyone in Louisiana.

## Register for Your Choice of Professional Development Training Sessions

*By Flavio Garza*

Please take a few moments to download the professional training session registration form on the NOPHNCSE website, review it and make your selections. There is a seating limit to the training sessions so please register early to ensure that your seat is reserved.

Please remember to mark your form with a "1, 2, or 3", for each of eight sessions in order to indicate your preferences. I will do my best

to honor your training requests within the seating limitations. REMEMBER: it will be "first come-first serve." [Note: the margins on this word document are 0.5" on all four sides.]

You will also be able to designate your preference for one of four conservation tours. Again, we ask that you designate your preferences by marking your form "1, 2, or 3" for the conservation tours.

If you have any questions, please call me at 956-723-6643 or contact me via email at [flavio.garza@tx.usda.gov](mailto:flavio.garza@tx.usda.gov).

## Plan on Seeing More of Louisiana Before or After the NOPHNCSE Conference?

*By Mario A. Morales*

I want to encourage everyone that wants to see and experience the many wonders of Louisiana to plan on staying after the conference or to arrive a little early. The Lafayette Hilton Towers has agreed to honor the conference room rate for three days prior and three days after our training conference. Feel free to take advantage of this opportunity. [Note: please mention "NOPHNCSE Conference" when reserving your hotel room.] The hotel telephone number is 337-235-6111.

This year's training conference schedule allows for some local site seeing but does not really

allow for the membership to stray too far away from Lafayette. For instance, New Orleans and Bourbon Street are at least two hours away. It would be difficult to experience the night life of Bourbon Street and fully participate in the many activities scheduled for our conference. Keep in mind we are attending this conference for a purpose. For more information about the Lafayette area, please visit [www.LafayetteTravel.com](http://www.LafayetteTravel.com).

There opportunities to charter a fishing trip, go to the Race Track (horses), visit historic sites and monuments, and do many other wonderful things. Again, I encourage you to arrive early or to stay after the conference to see what Louisiana has to offer.



## Minority Scholarships Available from Many Sources

Even if you do not have a college-aged child at home, this information may come in handy some day soon. Though there are a number of companies and organizations that have donated money for scholarship use to minorities, a great deal of the money is being returned because of a lack of interest.

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### Sources for Minority Scholarships

- 1) BELL LABS FELLOWSHIPS FOR UNDER REPRESENTED MINORITIES  
<http://www.bell-labs.com/fellowships/CRFP/info.html>
- 2) Student Inventors Scholarships <http://www.invent.org/collegiate/>
- 3) Student Video Scholarships  
<http://www.christophers.org/vidcon2k.html>
- 4) Coca-Cola Two Year College Scholarships  
<http://www.coca-colascholars.org/programs.html>
- 5) Holocaust Remembrance Scholarships <http://holocaust.hklaw.com/>
- 6) Ayn Rand Essay Scholarships <http://www.aynrand.org/contests/>
- 7) Brand Essay Competition  
<http://www.instituteforbrandleadership.org/IBLEssayContest-2002Rules.html>
- 8) Gates Millennium Scholarships (major)  
<http://www.gmsp.org/nominationmaterials/read.dbm?ID=12>
- 9) Xerox Scholarships for Students  
[http://www2.xerox.com/go/xrx/about\\_xerox/about\\_xerox\\_detail.jsp](http://www2.xerox.com/go/xrx/about_xerox/about_xerox_detail.jsp)
- 10) Sports Scholarships and Internships  
<http://www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html>
- 11) National Assoc. of Black Journalists Scholarships (NABJ)  
<http://www.nabj.org/html/studentsvcs.html>
- 12) Saul T. Wilson Scholarships (Veterinary)  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mb/mrphr/jobs/stw.html>
- 13) Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund  
[http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/sk\\_v6.cfm](http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/sk_v6.cfm)
- 14) FinAid: The Smart Students Guide to Financial Aid scholarships  
<http://www.finaid.org/>
- 15) Presidential Freedom Scholarships  
<http://www.nationalservice.org/scholarships/>
- 16) Microsoft Scholarship Program  
<http://www.microsoft.com/college/scholarships/minority.asp>
- 17) WiredScholar Free Scholarship Search  
[http://www.wiredscholar.com/paying/scholarship\\_search/pay\\_scholarship\\_search.jsp](http://www.wiredscholar.com/paying/scholarship_search/pay_scholarship_search.jsp)
- 18) Hope Scholarships & Lifetime Credits  
<http://www.ed.gov/inits/hope/>
- 19) William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship for Minority Students  
<http://www.apsanet.org/PS/grants/aspen3.cfm>
- 20) Multiple List of Minority Scholarships  
<http://gehon.ir.miami.edu/financial-assistance/Scholarship/black.html>
- 21) Guaranteed Scholarships <http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/>
- 22) BOEING scholarships (some HBCU connects)  
<http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/educationrelations/scholarships>
- 23) Easley National Scholarship Program  
<http://www.naas.org/senior.htm>
- 24) Maryland Artists Scholarships <http://www.maef.org/>
- 25) Jacki Tuckfield Memorial Graduate Business Scholarship (for AA students in South Florida) <http://www.jackituckfield.org/>

*(continued on page 8)*



*Minority Scholarships Available from Many Sources continued from page 7*

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A List of 50  
Minority  
Scholarships

- 26) Historically Black College & University Scholarships  
<http://www.iesabroad.org/info/hbcu.htm>
- 27) Actuarial Scholarships for Minority Students  
<http://www.beanactuary.org/minority/scholarships.htm>
- 28) International Students Scholarships & Aid Help  
<http://www.iefaf.org/>
- 29) College Board Scholarship Search  
<http://cbweb10p.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/fundfind01.html>
- 30) Burger King Scholarship Program <http://www.bkscholars.csfa.org/>
- 31) Siemens Westinghouse Competition  
<http://www.siemens-foundation.org/>
- 32) GE and LuLac Scholarship Funds  
<http://www.lulac.org/Programs/Scholar.html>
- 33) CollegeNet's Scholarship Database  
<http://mach25.collegenet.com/cgi-bin/M25/index>
- 34) Union Sponsored Scholarships and Aid  
<http://www.aflcio.org/scholarships/scholar.htm>
- 35) Federal Scholarships & Aid Gateways 25 Scholarship Gateways from Black Excel <http://www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm>
- 36) Scholarship & Financial Aid Help  
<http://www.blackexcel.org/fin-sch.htm>
- 37) Scholarship Links (Ed Finance Group)  
[http://www.efg.net/link\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.efg.net/link_scholarship.htm)
- 38) FAFSA On The Web (Your Key Aid Form & Info)  
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- 39) Aid & Resources For Re-Entry Students  
<http://www.back2college.com/>
- 40) Scholarships and Fellowships  
<http://www.osc.cuny.edu/sep/links.html>
- 41) Scholarships for Study in Paralegal Studies  
<http://www.paralegals.org/Choice/2000west.htm>
- 42) HBCU Packard Sit Abroad Scholarships (for study around the world)  
[http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad/packard\\_nomination.html](http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad/packard_nomination.html)
- 43) Scholarship and Fellowship Opportunities  
<http://ccmi.uchicago.edu/schl1.html>
- 44) INROADS internships <http://www.inroads.org/>
- 45) ACT-SO bEUroe "Olympics of the Mind" B Scholarships  
<http://www.naACP.org/work/actso/act-so.shtml>
- 46) Black Alliance for Educational Options Scholarships  
<http://www.baeo.org/options/privatelyfinanced.jsp>
- 47) ScienceNet Scholarship Listing  
<http://www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html>
- 48) Graduate Fellowships For Minorities Nationwide  
<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Student/GRFN/list.phtml?category=MINORITIES>
- 49) RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS AT OXFORD  
<http://www.rhodesscholar.org/info.html>
- 50) The Roothbert Scholarship Fund <http://www.roothbertfund.org/schol>





## Texas A&M Makes "Top 25 Colleges for Latinos" List Again

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### Texas A&M - A Top College for Latinos

Texas A&M University is ranked 13th in Hispanic Magazine's 2004 list of the "Top 25 Colleges for Latinos." This is the fifth consecutive year Texas A&M has been included in the magazine's annual Top 25 Colleges list.

"We are delighted to learn that we have been selected for this prestigious list once again," said Executive Vice President and Provost David Prior. "This ranking certainly reflects Texas A&M's commitment to creating a culture of excellence, where students of all backgrounds can succeed in a climate that encourages diversity."

According to the magazine, the top 25 schools were selected based on minority enrollment and retention rates, academic excellence, the ability for Hispanics to achieve, and other qualities.

"As in previous years, we looked for superior centers of higher learning where Hispanic students are thriving," said the article's author, Kimberly Garcia.

In ranking Texas A&M 13th, the magazine notes the university's 5,200-acre campus, but adds "camaraderie among Aggies, passionately held traditions and unsurpassed school pride shrink this colossal campus down to a friendly size."

Mark Weichold, Texas A&M's dean of undergraduate programs and

associate provost for academic services, said he is not surprised at the magazine's positive assessment of the university. Echoing a theme often expressed by Texas A&M President Robert Gates, Weichold said the university's "heart" makes it unique.

"We take pride in the great resource base of knowledge here - what President Gates calls the 'brain' factor," Weichold said. "Many institutions across this nation are known for their 'brain.' What makes Texas A&M different is its 'heart' - its spirit and friendliness, its opportunities for service and leadership development for students and our emphasis on the importance of family."

In addition to providing a quality educational experience for its more than 4,100 Hispanic students, Texas A&M also has experienced an increase in the quantity of Hispanics on campus. Enrollment has steadily increased over the past five years from 8.7 percent of the total student enrollment to 9.3 percent. A significant gain in minority enrollment at Texas A&M was attained last fall. New Hispanic freshmen increased by 26 percent over the previous year's incoming freshmen class. New Hispanic graduate students increased by 20 percent over the previous year.

Texas A&M's upward climb in Hispanic enrollment is the result of a synergism of efforts led by President Gates, who personally visits high schools to recruit students and meet their families.

Increased allocations for financial aid and scholarships, now about \$330 million, also helped account for the increase. For example, Texas A&M cites the new Graduate Diversity Fellowships, which were created for students who have demonstrated success in a diverse environment, and the Pathways to the Doctorate Fellowships are designed for students who attended a Texas A&M University System college. The latter fellowship has resulted in a closer cooperation between the university and its sister schools to provide greater opportunities for students throughout the state to pursue doctoral degrees.

In addition to financial assistance, Weichold noted strong outreach is instrumental in increasing minority enrollment, particularly the efforts of Texas A&M's six regional prospective student centers, including three in San Antonio, Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande Valley, staffed by bilingual admissions and financial aid advisers. Recruitment also is assisted by an active Hispanic former student network of volunteers who work with campus recruiters, he added.